

Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 08845.0004-01

REMARKS

This application is a continuation, under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b), of U.S. Patent Application No. 10/257,638, presently allowed.

In this Preliminary Amendment, Applicants have canceled claims 1-14, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof, and added claims 15-31 to protect additional aspects of the invention. The application has also been amended to insert the required reference to the parent application, for which benefit is claimed, of this new continuation application. Further, Applicants have amended the application and drawings consistent with the amendments made in the parent application (U.S. Application No. 10/257,638). Applicants submit these amendments do not constitute new matter.

As a result of this Amendment, claims 15-31 are pending. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner promptly consider and allow this application.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this paper and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: _____

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Dated: February 25, 2004

Attachments: **Substitute Abstract**
 Replacement Drawing Sheets - Figs. 1-5, 5a, 6-8